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The Signal



Friday, October 28, 2005

Published for the Department of Defense and the Fort Gordon community

Vol. 25, No. 43

News UPDATE

DST ends

Daylight-saving time ends **Sunday**; set clocks back one hour at 2 a.m. Sunday.

Trick or treat

The hours for trick or treating on post are 6-8 p.m. **today**.

German-Italian ceremony

The German-Italian Memorial Ceremony is 2 p.m. **Thursday** at the German-Italian cemetery near Gate 2. For information call 791-9536.

Flu shots

Eisenhower Army Medical Center is offering the flu vaccine to retirees and family members from 5-8 p.m. **Nov. 8, 9 and 10** in the Family Practice Clinic at EAMC.

Retirees and family members must present a valid military ID card. For details, call Jennifer Chipman at 787-5301.

General membership luncheon

A general membership luncheon hosted jointly by local AUSA, AFCEA and SCRA chapters is 11:30 a.m. **Monday** at the Gordon Club.

Guest speaker is Brig. Gen. Randolph Strong, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon commanding general.

Cost is \$11 for members, \$12 for non-members and includes choice of Italian grilled chicken breast or vegetarian lasagna.

For ticket information, call Robbe Ostby at 793-3500.

CFC ceremony

There is a Combined Federal Campaign recognition ceremony at 11:30 a.m. **Wednesday** in the Gordon Club ballroom.

Fort Gordon contributors to the CFC set a new record, donating more than \$420,000 and far exceeding the \$360,000 goal.

For information, call 791-8204.

Open season

The open season for enrolling or changing plans, coverage levels or types of coverage under the Federal Employees Health Benefits program is **Nov. 14 to Dec. 12**, with changes effective in the new plan year starting in January.

The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center will have its annual health fair from 9-11:30 a.m. **Thursday** at Eisenhower Army Medical Center (third floor) or 1-3:30 p.m. **Thursday** at the Gordon Club.

For information, call Carolyn Ellis at 791-4179.

‘Every Soldier a Rifleman, Every Movement a Patrol’

Kristy Davies

Signal staff

In keeping with Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Peter Schoomaker's credo emphasizing "Warrior Ethos," Advanced Individual Training Soldiers will learn more than what is taught in their military occupational specialty.

They will now be going to class with weapons strapped to their backs.

Weapons immersion is one of many tasks now being carried out by training installations and units. Soldiers are required to carry the weapons and don gear that they would wear while in a combat environment.

The 15th Signal Brigade has adopted a training transformation including weapons immersion. One company from 551st Signal Battalion has already begun the piloting of the new program; Company B, 369th Signal Battalion will begin its pilot program in November. The 73rd Ordnance Battalion implemented weapons immersion into their training in September.

"We started several months ago in preparing or setting the conditions to conduct weapons immersion," explained Lt. Col. Wade Sokolosky, 73rd Ord. Bn. commander.

"This is happening throughout (Training and Doctrine



Photo by Kristy Davies

As part of weapons immersion training, Pvt. Zelene Diaz (right) and Pfc. Rod Salyer, Company B, 73rd Ordnance Battalion, carry their weapons to the dining facility. The training compels Soldiers to be responsible for their weapons 24 hours a day.

Command) and in order to make this happen, TRADOC had to issue additional weapons to all of the battalions in TRADOC. We already had well over 100 weapons, so I was in a position to start it."

The 73rd Ord. Bn., which falls under the 59th Ordnance Brigade, Redstone Arsenal, Ala., uses M16A2 weapons for the weapons immersion training.

The other battalions under 15th Sig. Bde. will be using M16A1 weapons because of availability.

Learning to always have a weapon with them teaches the Soldier responsibility and builds confidence.

"If you don't go to the field a lot, you're not used to keeping up with your weapon," explained Maj. Rodney Lightfoot,

15th Sig. Bde. S-3. "The weapons immersion is to carry the weapon with you and properly secure it."

"We have to train them in their MOS skill, but now we need to train them to a level of comfort with their weapon," added Lightfoot. "Not only firing it, but to keep up with it. We need to instill confidence in them that the things they're

being asked to do they know how to do."

Drill sergeants here may have more on their hands to ensure safety and accountability.

"The training is being reinforced," said Sgt. 1st Class Von Stagers, Co. B, 369th Sig. Bn. "They now know they don't leave their weapon in the latrine or mess hall."

Clearing barrels have been placed in strategic locations including the school houses, company areas, dining facilities and barracks buildings. The Soldiers are restricted to where they will carry their weapon and cannot carry them to medical appointments, the post exchange, shoppettes, commissary and library.

During weapons immersion, Soldiers will have their M16 with them 24 hours a day and are required to carry the weapon while they are eating, in class and sleeping.

"When a Soldier arrives, the Soldier will conduct weapons immersion (once he is done processing at Darling Hall) and they will stay in a weapons immersion status through phase four into phase five, which is roughly about 12 weeks," explained Sokolosky.

See Weapons, page 3

Gordon hosts first Military Idol contest

Kristy Davies

Signal staff

Only one could win.

Hundreds of Soldiers worldwide competed to make it into the first ever Military Idol competition. Each of the 36 participating Army installations sent forth one competitor to the final Military Idol competition held here.

After a week of head-to-head showdowns, being judged by country recording artist Michael Peterson, retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack

Tilley and Debra Byrd, vocal coach and arranger for American Idol, the competition was narrowed down to five finalists for a live web cast Saturday.

The finalists were Staff Sgt. Ron Henry, Fort Eustis, Va.; Staff Sgt. William Glenn, Darmstadt, Germany; Capt. Ron Carden, Fort Knox, Ky.; Spc. Festus Togbeola, Schweinfurt, Germany; and Spc. Richard Sianoya, Wurzburg, Germany.

See Idol, page 11



Photo by Kristy Davies

Five finalists competed for the title of Military Idol Saturday at Alexander Hall. The contest, in its inaugural year, brought 35 contestants from around the world to compete here.

Marine detachment run honors fallen comrades

Charmain Z. Brackett

Contributing writer

Lance Cpl. William W. White of Brooklyn, N.Y. was only 24 years old when he died March 29, 2003 in Iraq.

"I had to make the casualty call," said Gunnery Sgt. James Meek, who will run three miles in honor of White during a 15-day memory run at Barton Field. The entire

run will cover more than 1,800 miles.

The Tribute to the Fallen run begins at 8 a.m. today and will continue for 24 hours a day until Nov. 10, the Marine Corps' birthday.

The final lap is scheduled to begin about 6 a.m. that morning.

There are only a handful of Marines in the detachment stationed here; however, they

have garnered the support of former Marines and members of the Marine Corps Reserves unit in the community.

Meek said he expects about 100 people to run.

"We run three miles on our physical fitness test," he said. Each runner will run three miles in honor of the more than 600 Marines and Naval corpsman attached to the Marines who have died in

Iraq and Afghanistan.

A PowerPoint presentation with photographs and information on the fallen will be shown during the run.

On the final leg of the event, the entire company will run; a Marine will play "Taps," and there will be a 21-gun salute.

"Marines take care of their own," said Meek. "We also stand on the tradition of Ma-

rines, our forefathers, who gave their lives."

Meek said that other former Marines who are living in the area and interested in showing their support may participate.

"A lot of Soldiers are former Marines," he said.

Meek said they will send certificates to the families of the fallen to let them know what took place.

JNN-N simulation continues transformation

Tammy Moehlman

Signal staff

Stimulating training is now available online for the new Joint Network Node - Network.

The new 25N occupational specialty, or JNN-N Nodal System Operator/Maintainer Soldiers, are now able to train using simulations.

The 25N MOS was recently made official along with the beginning of course training this month for the new JNN-N equipment. The biggest thing with the new equipment and related training is the simultaneous introduction of simulation training for JNN-N online.

"The most significant thing about this particular simulation is the timing. It's the first time that a simulation has come out with a new piece of equipment at the same time," said Terry Moehlman, chief of Publications/Media Branch, University of Information Technology Division. "The simulation is not standalone training, but is used in conjunction with regular training at the resident schoolhouse."

Soldiers with an Army Knowledge Online account can access the UIT portal at <http://uit.gordon.army.mil> and download the simulation.

A forum has been established on the website to provide technical sup-

port for UIT Simulations, according to Staff Sgt. Christopher Page, non-commissioned officer in charge, Simulations Branch, Directorate of Training. He also adds that "all simulations that have been developed to support Life Long Learning are available through the UIT web portal."

The simulation provides realistic training including the turning on of lights, the actual sounds the equipment makes during each process, and also simulates the actual time it takes the equipment to perform an action.

"Simulations are high fidelity 3D virtual reality views of equipment and systems that are used as initial (resident) and sustainment (deployed) training," said Page. "The 3D environment makes it very realistic. All aspects of creating a simulation for a system have been taken into account."

"For instance, if it takes one minute for a radio to perform a self test, then that delay time is duplicated within the simulation. All LED indications, alarms and warnings have also been duplicated in the simulation."

The simulation took a year to develop and was loaded to the website Oct. 18.

See JNN-N, page 4

Captain convicted of possessing child porn

Sentenced to 42 months confinement, dismissal from Army

Marla Jones
Special to the Signal

A Fort Gordon officer was convicted of possessing child pornography, communicating indecent language to a child, engaging in sexually explicit conversation with a child, and daring a girl to watch pornography, following a court martial Oct. 18 and 19.

Capt. David Shumaker, 73rd Ordnance Battalion, was found guilty by Col. Donna Wright, military judge, and sentenced to 42 months confinement and dismissal from the Army.

Chief witnesses for the prosecution were Shumaker's former babysitter, who was 14 years old at the time of the crimes, and another teenage girl.

Shumaker had sexually explicit conversations with the girls in an exchange of e-mails, and in one of the messages he told the babysitter that he dreamed of having sex with her.

A forensic computer expert from the Army Criminal Investigation Divison Lab at Fort Gillem, Ga., testified concerning the image files she found when she examined Shumaker's computer. She found 80,000 pornographic images; about 80 of those were determined to be child pornography.

Two medical expert witnesses, both developmental pediatricians, gave testimony about the ages of the children pictured in the files from Shumaker's computer.

Defense attorneys argued that the ages of children in the digital images were subject to question, and they could have been as old as 18 years.

A CID agent formerly assigned to Fort Gordon testified that Shumaker gave consent for them to search his house and made a sworn statement, admitting he had child pornography files on his computer.

He said he had e-mail conversations with his babysitter and another girl, in which they talked about sexual preferences.

Shumaker, in his unsworn statement to the court, apologized to his victim, and said "I don't want her to think this was her fault. It wasn't."

He said the actions which

led to his conviction should never have happened.

Prosecutor Capt. Raashid Williams said, "this case was about the accused attempts to gratify his own sexual desires through a 14-year-old girl."

Williams said her family trusted Shumaker and he violated that trust.

The 14-year-old's therapist said she will need continued counseling for the next several years.

Defense attorney William Cassara told the judge before sentencing that Shumaker admitted his communications with the young girl turned sexual. "That was wrong, it was inappropriate and illegal. He should have stopped it." Cassara called the child pornography images "relatively

benign."

Prosecutor Capt. Jonathan Larcomb said of Shumaker that he admitted to the CID that he sought the child pornography and targeted girls aged 12-14.

"His actions showed that he wanted to take things further with the girls, asking one of them if she would have sex with him if he was younger."

Shumaker faced a possible sentence of 16 years confinement, total forfeiture of all pay and allowances and dismissal from the Army.

The sentence is subject to approval by the convening authority and review by the U.S. Court of Military Appeals.

(Jones is the deputy public affairs officer here.)



Photo by Tammy Moehlman

Remembering freedom

The Georgia Military Officers Association of America's Augusta chapter hosted a memorial service Friday at Freedom Park. The names of those members from Georgia chapters of the MOAA who have passed away were read and a bell tolled in their memory.

"The purpose of this memorial service is to honor all of our fallen comrades and today we've included those Soldiers that are deployed, who are serving in harm's way," said retired Col. Frank Valentine. The group placed two wreaths – one for our fallen comrades as part of the Military Officers Association of America and the other is for those Soldiers who have recently fallen and given their lives for liberty, he said.

Six Soldiers receive Purple Hearts

Jennifer Chipman
EAMC Public Affairs

Six Soldiers received Purple Hearts for injuries they received in support of the Global War on Terrorism during a ceremony held Oct. 21 in the Eisenhower Army Medical Center auditorium.

Col. Donald M. Bradshaw, commander of the Southeast Regional Medical Command and EAMC, presented the medals.

Sgt. Joshua Denney with the Illinois Army National Guard, out of Danville, Ill. mobilized Jan. 5. Four months into his deployment, he and his squad were attacked by Iraqi insurgents using mortars, rocket propelled grenades and small arms. During the attack, an improvised explosive device detonated causing injury to his right leg.

Staff Sgt. Brian Reed with the Vermont Army National Guard was mobilized Jan. 19 as a mortar man. Two months after arriving in theater, he and his squad came under attack by Iraqi insurgents using grenades, RPGs and small arms fire. Reed sustained shrapnel wounds to his left leg and head



Photo by Paul Clayton

Col. Donald Bradshaw, Southeast Regional Medical Command and Eisenhower Army Medical Center commander, presented Staff Sgt. Charles Richardson and five others Purple Heart medals for injuries sustained while deployed.

during the fire fight.

Sgt. Samuel VanLoon with the Pennsylvania Army National Guard was mobilized on Jan. 25

to provide main supply route security, locate IEDs and provide security for special forces missions. The day VanLoon was

wounded he was the tank commander when his crew was attacked by Iraqi insurgents using small arms. During the attack, he was shot in the left arm.

Spc. Jeremy Jackson with the Pennsylvania Army National Guard was mobilized on Jan. 12. In August he was conducting a search mission when he came under fire by a sniper. He sustained a gun shot wound to his left shoulder during this attack.

Staff Sgt. Charles Richardson with the Illinois National Guard, also out of Danville, Ill., was mobilized Jan. 4. Four months into his deployment, he and his squad came under attack by Iraqi insurgents using IEDs and small arms fire. During the attack, Richardson sustained blast injuries to his left arm and leg.

Spc. Ronald Raymond, with the Maryland National Guard, was mobilized in January of this year and deployed to Iraq. Four months into his deployment, he was conducting a vehicle search when an IED detonated. He sustained shrapnel wounds to the lower half of his body.

All six of these Soldiers are currently assigned to EAMC's Troop Command.

Weapons

From page 1

"Then two weeks out before they graduate, during their warrior training exercise, they will pick up weapons immersion again as part of their pre-deployment training for the WTX," he said.

Manpower for the arms room has not been affected by weapons immersion.

"What weapons immersion does is actually get the weapons out of the arms room and into the control of the Soldier and is then openly supervised by the drill sergeants and the company commander and first sergeant," added Sokolosky.

Safety comes first for all of the units.

"The Soldier is issued a

magazine with five blank rounds in it, and that's all part of learning how to carry a loaded weapon, how to clear it properly and how to handle it," explained Sokolosky.

Each unit will conduct weapons immersion slightly different from another, but will continue to teach the fundamentals and responsibilities of having a weapon.

"Ultimately (we are trying) to instill a very disciplined standard in the Soldier. We've lost too many Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan to negligent discharge. By giving the Soldier the weapon now, he or she develops a confidence with that weapon and will know exactly what to do."



Photo by Scott Newcom

Play it

The U.S. Army Field Band, the Army's premiere band, performed Saturday at Aiken Technical College. Since its formation in March 1946, the Field Band has appeared in all 50 states and in more than 30 countries on four continents.

Post entertainment program receives top marks with Irving Berlin award

Charmain Z. Brackett
Contributing writer

The Fort Gordon Entertainment Program was named the best in the Army, receiving the Irving Berlin Award..

“This is a giant award,” said Steve Walpert, Fort Gordon’s entertainment director. “It’s an annual award for music and entertainment programs...recognized as the Army’s best.”

In 1956, the Secretary of the Army established the Irving Berlin Award, named after the composer who wrote the scores to 17 Broadway plays including “Annie Get Your Gun” and Hollywood movie musicals including “White Christmas” and “There’s No Business Like Show Business.”

Berlin served in the Army during World War I and started the first Soldier Show, entertainment for Soldiers by Sol-

diers, in 1918.

Through Walpert, Fort Gordon has followed in Berlin’s leading of providing quality entertainment for Soldiers by providing an array of entertainment for Soldiers and their families.

The Fort Gordon Dinner Theatre provided seven shows last season including the drama Wait Until Dark which won first place at the 2005 Army Festival of Performing Arts.

Fort Gordon Entertainment wrote and produced the annual holiday safety show, and brought in other performing groups including the Bravo Army Touring Theatre Company, Missoula Children’s Theatre, the U.S. Army Soldier Show and Air Force Tops in Blue.

Other entertainment included a concert by Montgomery Gentry and festivals including Cinco de Mayo and Oktoberfest.



Photo by Kristy Davies

Steve Walpert (second from left) accepted the Irving Berlin Award Saturday from Pete Isaacs (left), chief operating officer, U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center. The award named Fort Gordon as best entertainment program in the Army. Also pictured are Jim Green, Morale, Welfare and Recreation director and Col. Ronald Bouchard (right), U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon deputy commander/assistant commandant.

JNN-N

From page 1

“Simulation is a key part of the Lifelong Learning initiative that the Signal Center has been working on for the past four years.

Lifelong Learning simply means using technology to deliver training and education to Soldiers and leaders wherever they are and whenever they need it.

“Simulation helps us get away from the heavy dependency that we have on equipment. It helps us use a PC-based replication of the equipment for familiarization, acquiring and practicing information technology skills. Of the three types of simulations (live, virtual and constructive), the JNN-N simulation is a virtual simulation used to assist instructors with initial JNN-N Nodal System Operator/maintainer training and units with sustainment,” said Maj. Charles Dugle, chief, Simulations Branch, Directorate of Training.

All simulations are set up in the same way so that operating and navigating a simulation never changes, just the subject

matter. This makes it easier for the users to focus on learning the equipment and not on how to run the simulation program.

The training focuses on four modes of learning: familiarize, acquire, practice, and validate, according to Page.

“A simulation will actually save on the amount of the actual equipment we’ll need in the schoolhouse for training. You can have fewer pieces of the equipment in the schoolhouse because you train using the simulation on laptop or desktop computers. Then the student goes through a series of tasks,” said Moehlman.

The simulation is followed up with a hands-on validation with the actual equipment. Often equipment gets damaged when it’s used for training and that’s another advantage to simulations.

“You can’t break the simulation; if something happens you reboot your computer... and start over,” said Moehlman. “Plus it tracks how many errors are made and where they need to

go back and do a refresher.”

Another advantage to the online simulation training is the access it gives to Soldiers deployed or in Reserve or National Guard units.

The simulation also “provides training for the reserve component Soldiers,” said Moehlman.

With most training provided on the UIT portal Soldiers have the option of going through the whole course or just the simulation. The simulation is the only training available online at this time for JNN-N, but the whole course will be available in the future. The training is so new not all the parts have been placed online. This realistic training will compliment instruction at the resident schoolhouse and those hundred to thousands of miles away, he said.

“No matter where the Soldier is stationed, they will be able to come back to one location and download the simulations that they need for training,” said Page.

Viewpoint

Information, Opinions, and Commentary

Domestic violence affects children, too

Jessica Armstead
82nd Training Wing
military spouse

SHEPPARD AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – Many parents believe they can hide domestic violence from their children, according to the Family Violence Prevention Fund.

Research, however, suggests that between 80 to 90 percent of these children are aware of the violence.

Even if children do not see the violence, they can still hear the screams and see the bruises, broken bones and abrasions.

There are many myths about how domestic violence affects children. I recently heard someone say, “Children aren’t affected because they do so well in school.”

In my own personal experience, I always had a 3.5 to 3.7 grade point average, and I never studied, mainly because I could not concentrate at home.

My grades never faltered, simply because school was “my safe place.” There, I was always around adults who didn’t scream and fight. Children tend to thrive in places they are happiest.

I always felt safe, so of course I

did well in school. I was comfortable there. I could forget everything that happened at home, until I faced going home again.

Another myth I’ve heard is, “He’s a good provider and wouldn’t hurt the children,” or “She loves her children and would never do anything to hurt them.”

When mom and dad are fighting, children usually stay out of the way, at all costs! When parents fight, children hear the screams and curses. They hear the common, “He’s YOUR son!” or, “She’s YOUR daughter!”

When I heard those words through my bedroom wall, it felt as if someone

punched me as hard as they could in my chest. I felt like it was my fault.

When I heard those words, I felt like they didn’t love me anymore, passing my name like blame to each

other. I felt like a mistake.

Parents hurt their children every time domestic violence occurs.

So the excuse of, “He or she would never hurt the children” becomes a tragic lie that more often than not children discover firsthand.

With domestic violence in the home, the family suffers every day.

One of my friends shared, “Kids don’t want to be separated from their parents,” but they also don’t want to see one parent treat the other like crap all the time and listen to the screaming and throwing of things.

They don’t want to have to walk around on eggshells wondering, “What kind of mood is ev-

eryone going to be in today?”

Even if kids don’t hear the fighting, or if there wasn’t any fighting the night before, they can feel the tension and hatred in the air. No matter how much parents say it’s not the kids fault, they ALWAYS think it is. I always thought if I had done the dishes or had picked up my brother’s toys, he wouldn’t be yelling at her right now.”

Eventually, children silently wish that parents would go their separate ways so they would have their happier life back.

They would rather be slightly sad that one of their parents isn’t around anymore than to continue the “war” day in and day out.

My friend told me, “I can’t describe to you how happy I was to finally see my parents split up. Of course I was upset, but we were moving on with life and actually having some kind of life together.” This month – Domestic Violence Awareness Month – I urge people to take a stand and speak out against domestic violence. Children in these homes remain helpless and rely on us to protect them.

Remember, silence only hides violence.



**NATIONAL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AWARENESS MONTH**

Feedback...

How can domestic violence be prevented?

By Kristy Davies



I think domestic violence can be under control by the people before the people get married, by getting counseling and getting to know one another. Going to church and interacting with your pastor when problems come up.

Gladys McKinney
Exchange vendor



I think we should have more harsh punishments. Basic training is worse than jail. (Abusers) should be put through basic training. We don’t even get televisions.

Pvt. Ryan Embury
Co. C, 447th Sig. Bn.



By being educated. If the spouses can communicate with each other and try not to make it stressful for the other party then I think we would have less incidents of domestic violence.

**Sgt. 1st Class
Debra Owens**
HHC, 93rd Sig. Bde.



Domestic violence can be prevented by more effective communication and less physical contact between the significant others or family members.

**Sgt. 1st Class
Tommy Jones**
HQ & Co. A
442nd Sig. Bn.



Educating the children starting off young and showing them that even if they’re in an abusive household that there is a way that they need to break the cycle. Doing prevention classes.

**Petty Officer 2nd Class
Sarah Driver**
Naval IOC

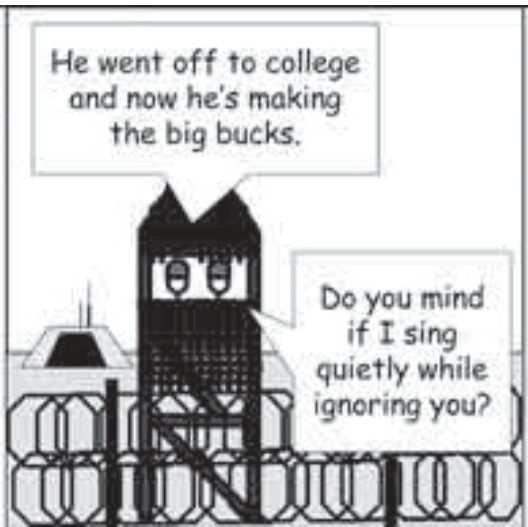


I think we need to be more concerned about each other. Sometimes we get caught up in ourselves and we’re not concerned about the welfare of others and who we hurt. (We need) to have a positive attitude.

Milbert Demery
PX concessionaire

Downrange

By Jeffery Hall



‘My Friend’

The Signal

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Pumpkin-carving fun at library

Charmain Z. Brackett
Contributing writer

It wasn't the sort of activity that Pvt. William Hunter expected to be taking part in on a Tuesday night.

He and his buddy Pvt. Andrew Koch had visited Woodworth Library to use the computers, but when they were down, they opted for carving pumpkins instead.

"I'm actually having fun," said Hunter, who showed his patriotism by carving an American flag in his pumpkin.

With the help of Kim Lyons at the Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation, interim library director Susie Joyner saved about two dozen pumpkins from the Oktoberfest celebration on post.

Librarian Jean Ballejo cleaned the pulp from the pumpkins so all the patrons had to do was carve a favorite design. Some volunteers carved some designs on a few of the pumpkins decorating the steps as the carvers arrived.

There were 18 pumpkins left over for patrons to carve.

Joyner printed pumpkin patterns from a website and had them available should the car-



Photo by Charmain Brackett

Monte Ogwu, 8, carves a pumpkin with his father, Ike Ogwu, Tuesday at Woodworth Library. This is the second year the library has held pumpkin carving.

ers choose to use them.

For Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Chuck Wells, it was the first time he'd ever carved a pumpkin.

"It definitely brings out the creative mind," said Wells, who chose a seashell pattern for his pumpkin. "It's great the library

sponsors events like this."

Joyner set the mood with spooky classical music in the background, and there were snacks of warm apple cider, cookies and candy.

The event was a good family outing for Ike Ogwu and his 8-year-old son, Monte.

"We normally come to the library to look at books and the Internet," he said.

The finished pumpkins were placed outside the library and lighted candles set inside. Joyner said she hopes the event, which is in its second year, will continue and grow.

Halloween events offered for all

Charmain Z. Brackett
Contributing writer

Trick or treaters will be out in force from 6-8 p.m. today.

"Traditionally, we've done it on the Friday before Halloween," said Tom Fitzpatrick, garrison operations manager, who has a few tips to keep children safe during the festivities.

Although roads will be blocked off to provide safe routes for children in costume, Fitzpatrick said parents should still be on guard.

Sometimes, people will still drive past road blocks, he said.

Taking a flashlight would

also be a good idea, he said.

The American Red Cross' website also offers other safety tips such as walking on sidewalks and not in the middle of the road, wearing light colored or reflective clothing, keeping away from open flames because costumes can be flammable and having an adult inspect the candy.

Fitzpatrick said that adults should go along with their children as another safety precaution.

Festivities on post aren't limited to tonight's trick or treating in housing areas.

Also from 6-8 p.m. today at

Gym 4 on Barnes Avenue, there will be a Hallelujah Night Halloween alternative event sponsored by the Protestant Sunday School, Protestant Women of the Chapel and Post Chapels.

There will be games, crafts, singing and lots of candy for children between the ages of 4 and 11.

Children are encouraged to wear costumes featuring their favorite Biblical costumes. No ghosts, goblins, demons, devils, witches or other scary costumes will be allowed.

Admission is one bag of candy, but children will not be turned away if they do not bring

a bag.

For more information, call 791-4703.

There will be a Halloween party for the grown-ups beginning at 8 p.m. Saturday at Jammers in the Courtyard.

There will be costume contests, hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar.

There is a \$3 cover charge.

From 4:30-8 p.m. Monday, there will be a Halloween pizza party for children and adults at the Gordon Club. There will be plenty of pizza, hog dogs, chips and candy, a costume contest and a haunted house. Admission is \$3.

Comedy, fair also on schedule

Charmain Z. Brackett
Contributing writer

Every day is a fresh slate for Claire.

A form of amnesia causes the lead character in Fuddy Meers to forget every thing each night as she sleeps.

"She's a sunny individual," said Matt Cabbil, who plays her husband, Richard, in the show that is being presented at the University of South Carolina Aiken at 8 p.m. today and tomorrow, and 3 p.m. Sunday at the college's Etherredge Center.

While it sounds a lot like the Adam Sandler-Drew Barrymore movie 50 First Dates, the stage comedy had a slightly darker side.

Claire is blocking out some of the harsh realities of her life, according to Maggie Knapp, who plays the role.

Admission to Fuddy Meers is \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors 62 years and older and \$7 for students.

For more information, call

(803) 641-3305.

JACK-O-LANTERN JUBILEE

North Augusta's annual Jack-O-Lantern Jubilee will be from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday in downtown North Augusta.

There will be arts and crafts, games and rides and a costume contest.

Georgia Avenue will be blocked off for the event which will also feature entertainment by singer Joey Bridwell, the Foot Loose and Fancy Free Cloggers and North Augusta High School's choruses.

For more information, call 441-4300.

HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL

There will be a Halloween festival at the Augusta Common in downtown Augusta from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday.

The festival will feature a costume parade, games, entertainment and arts and crafts vendors.

For more information, call 821-1754.



Photo by Charmain Brackett

Cast members rehearse a fight scene for "Fuddy Meers" which will be staged at the University of South Carolina Aiken's Etherredge Center today, Saturday and Sunday.

YCA holds family day reunion

Kristy Davies
Signal staff

They were dropped off more than a month ago to start their second chances, and the cadets in the Youth Challenge Academy here were able to see their families again for the first time Saturday.

About 150 cadets marched onto the field to show their families and friends how much discipline they have gained at the beginning of a family day and open house at the academy.

In addition to inviting families, the YCA staff also invited past graduates to attend this year's family day.

Laura Warren, a 2005 YCA graduate, learned many lessons while she was at the academy.

"(I learned) self respect and how to respect people," said Warren.

The 17-year-old graduate had mixed emotions about returning to the campus.

"It's sad to be back because I want to come back now. It was hard, but it was fun."

Cadets mingled with their families hugging and talking about what they have already been through at the academy. Some of them described the physical training while others talked about new friends.

"This is the first time the cadets have seen their families since they were dropped on Sept. 25," said Adele Holifield, YCA operations officer. "Their families, mentors and friends have all been invited to come out (and) all the proceeds from today go toward their graduation and the challenge invitational."

More than 300 family members and friends participated in family day, which is held annually to bring families to the academy to see where their kids are and how much they



Photo by Kristy Davies

Chris Wilde, an 18-year-old cadet at YCA, tells his father Jim Wilde (left), about physical training at the academy during family day Saturday.

have changed for the better. The academy is designed for at-risk youth to receive a second chance and attain a General Equivalency Diploma.

"(Families) can talk with their teachers, counselors and cadre to see what progress that they've made," said Holifield. "The parents get to see the kids and the change that has occurred in such a short time. The families are also encouraged to go over to the barracks so that they can see where their son or daughter is living."

During Family Day, booths were set up for purchases of YCA souvenirs, food and a drawing for a color television or \$50 gasoline gift card. The basketball team set up a free

throw game to raise money. Cadets and family members were also invited to rappel off the YCA rappel tower. This year the rappel tower was open on two sides, allowing twice as many people to experience rappelling.

Seeing the difference in an at-risk child is priceless not only to parents, but siblings as well.

"I've never been so proud of her in my life," said Spc. Thomas Bryant from Fort Benning, Ga., about his sister, Ruthie, a cadet in the program. "She stopped smoking (and) I like that she's in a good environment with professionals... she's safe here and I don't have to worry about her."

Being active duty military, Thomas felt a sense of brotherly pride as he watched his little sister march across the field.

"They look squared away (and) they look like active military," added Thomas with a beaming smile.

"I'm going to challenge him (when I get out)," said Ruthie with a grin.

The hardest part for Ruthie is being away from family, but family day and having them visit made a difference.

"It's wonderful to have my family come see me, but I don't want them to leave," said Ruthie. "It's a challenge and for me I needed it. (When I graduate) I will be a different person."

Family trio serves country in Iraq

Suzanne M. Fournier
Army News Service

BASE CAPE ADDER, Iraq – Following his Navy father's military lead, Sgt. Maj. David Murphy understands and welcomes service to his country, but having his son and brother serve in Iraq at the same time is both comforting and disturbing.

Son Zach, 25, is a specialist with the 5th Special Forces Group, 60 miles north of Baghdad, in what is called Camp Anaconda. Father and son have only been able to spend four brief hours together since Zach arrived in country 60 days ago.

"Zach graduated from college with a degree in computer information management, but he wanted to take advantage of the college incentives offered by the Army and have a bit of adventure too," said his Dad proudly. "He is definitely getting the education of a lifetime here. Growing up in the Midwest, this is a real eye opener to find people out there who carry guns and don't have the best of intentions toward you."

"I'm concerned about him, but it helps me to understand the situation better being here, than if I was home. I'm confident in his ability to handle himself as the Army trained him well," said the elder Murphy, who has served 27 years.

Murphy's younger brother, Tim, is with the Indiana National Guard, stationed close by at Base Camp Cedar, as a transportation specialist. Tim is often on the road so they have only managed to steal a few hours together since Murphy arrived in this camp a month ago. Tim has been in Iraq since January, and will return to his

wife and four children in November.

In addition to his son and brother, Murphy has 62 troops in the 416th Engineering Section he is responsible for back in Chicago.

In Iraq, he is working with Soldiers and civilians of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region South. The engineering aspects of the job are right up his lane. He feels right at home in the field and spends a lot of time at construction sites where the Corps is building schools, hospitals, clinics, roads, bridges, water treatment, waste treatment, police stations and oil production facilities.

Although language barriers and security issues make construction challenging, he finds it easier to communicate with Iraqis even though they use different words, because construction language supersedes all vocal communication.

"I've had 33 years of construction experience in one form or another from hos-

pitals, colleges, power generation plants to small construction jobs. In my civilian job at Johnson Controls, I manage construction projects," said Murphy. "That makes this job an easy transition from being a Soldier to working with people who do construction – it parallels what the Army Corps of Engineers does."

Although Murphy currently serves as an engineer, he may as well wear the recruiter badge as well. Oldest brother of six and father of four, he was instrumental in enlisting his brother Tim and three of his sons into the Army.

Oldest son, Jeremiah, 30, is in the Illinois National Guard, has a degree in construction management and served an apprenticeship in Local 137 Pipefitters Union.

"We could really use his talents over here with the oil refineries and oil distribution projects, but I'm not sure what his mother – my wife, would say if I encouraged him to come to Iraq as well," said Murphy.

Second son, 27-year-old Brandon, was previously in the Army and youngest son Vincent, 23, just graduated from college this spring.

"I feel strongly about commitment and have always enjoyed serving in uniform. I heard it at home too, because my dad served in the Navy during World War II," said Murphy. "I am proud to be a contributor and do my part. I feel it is necessary and my way to preserve the safety of my family and my country."

(Fournier is the public affairs officer for the Gulf Region Southern District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Iraq.)



USACE photo

Sgt. Maj. David Murphy spent a few hours with son Spc. Zach Murphy; father and son are both deployed to Iraq.

Mosul city government policing its own

Polli Keller
Army News Service

MOSUL, Iraq –The Mosul city government and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or USACE, are working together to renovate eight Mosul police stations.

This \$1.9 million dollar project began June 2005; completion is scheduled for this year's end. Five of the eight scheduled renovations already are complete.

These repairs provide better working conditions and a safer

environment for the police officers working and living in the facilities. This post-conflict city fell into disrepair while under Sadaam Hussein's reign and needed upgrading to make the infrastructure functional. Hussein allowed the police stations' electrical and plumbing utilities to deteriorate and regular building maintenance was nonexistent.

Necessary renovations included opening clogged drains to prevent flooding, installing window screens, roof repair, installing air conditioning and

heating, as well as installing water lines and storage tanks, and repairing restrooms.

At some police stations, workers and police officials live on the premises while the construction work is completed.

The police stations represent the Iraqi government at the local level; thus, insurgents consider these projects to be targets. Coalition funds pay for the renovation contracts so they also represent a threat to the insurgency. Terrorists threaten both contractors and workers due to their efforts to rebuild

the Iraqi infrastructure.

"Local Iraqi contractors were hired to perform these services. These contractors accepted these jobs at a considerable risk," said Frank Scopa, USACE area office engineer.

The Mosul Area Office manages construction and renovation of several projects in the area. Currently, 80 projects have begun in Mosul. Thirty-eight projects are complete, while 42 are ongoing.

(Keller is a public affairs specialist with the USACE Gulf Region North.)

Encourage others without trying

Chaplain (Maj.) Jay Johns

Leader College of Information Technology

"But He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.'" 2 Corinthians 12:9.

I had the privilege of doing something last month I've dreamed of since I came onto active duty 10 years ago: attending Airborne School.

I must confess that, while it was overwhelmingly a positive experience, it would have been easier at age 32 than at 42.

But in spite of a few bumps and bruises, by God's grace, I earned the silver jump wings Sept. 30.

Though I fully expected to be the oldest member of the class (I was), I did not anticipate the speed at which my body would wear down to exhaustion early in the course.

Midway through week one, I felt like I had already run 10 miles upon crawling out of bed in the morning.

Clearly my 19-year-old son, who had graduated Airborne School in May of this year, overestimated my stamina when he told me, "It will be a piece of cake, Dad."

My motto for surviving the course became, "Return to Fort Gordon with Jump Wings or in a body bag."

Chaplains are often viewed as the "lucky rabbit's foot" of the group, and it is often necessary to remind people that it is God's grace, and not the proximity to the chaplain, that brings blessings. Yet I found myself go-

ing first off of the 250 foot tower, and first jumper on the first plane during jump week (perhaps I would "bless the air" for everyone else?).

There are still enough competitive juices flowing through my veins (more honestly, unbiblical pride) that I hoped to show the younger folks that even an old chaplain could be "high-speed, low drag." However, I found myself being ministered to and encouraged by the young Soldiers around me.

After hard landings and tough workout sessions, the faithful always came by to ask if I was doing OK.

I can't begin to tell you what that meant to me. And although I did enjoy some opportunities to pray for Soldiers, give spiritual guidance and share hardships, there is one event that stands out in my mind as an example of "ministry without even trying."

It was on the first jump. I was the number one jumper, which meant that I would "stand in the door" (and have a lot of time to consider the craziness of exiting the aircraft at 1,250 feet) while the other jumpers prepared to follow me, and then each other, in rapid succession.

Utilizing an old trick called "fake it till you make it," I determined that I would try to smile while standing in the door, hoping that smiling would keep me from vomiting. It worked.

After exiting the drop zone, a young Soldier named Yermanos came up to me and said, "Sir, I was so scared to jump. But when I saw the old chaplain at the door smiling, I knew I could do it!"

If only he knew.... Indeed, when I am weak, He can be strong.

Iraqi voters say ‘yes’ to new constitution

Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – A majority of Iraq’s citizens have approved their country’s new constitution, an event the top U.S. diplomat called “a remarkable story.”

Iraqis “achieved yet another step on their march toward democracy,” Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Tuesday.

Iraqis voted on the new constitution during an Oct. 15 referendum. The Iraqi government announced Tuesday that 78 percent of voters approved the document.

Each time Iraqis faced a challenge since the fall of Saddam Hussein they’ve met it, whether it was in the transfer of sovereignty or the creation of an interim government, Rice said. The Iraqis also successfully held elections Jan. 30. And now, “they’re getting ready for elections in December,” she said.

The Iraqis are staying on their path toward democracy “despite the fact that there are violent people who would like to throw them off that path,” Rice said.

About 96 percent of Iraqis living in Anbar province – mostly Sunnis – voted against the new constitution. However, Rice said, “it is not against the exercise of democracy to vote ‘no.’

“It is the exercise of democracy to vote. And the Sunnis have exercised their right to vote,” she said.

Toward the end of negotiations on the draft constitution a number of key decisions about how federalism would be administered across Iraq “were left for the next parliament to decide,” Rice said. That governing body will be chosen during December elections.

Official believe the next elected Iraqi parliament “will have full Sunni participation because Sunnis are now really involved in the process,” Rice said. Kurds and Shiites, Iraq’s two other major ethnic groups, “agreed to a mechanism by which the constitution can be amended,” Rice said, “so that Sunnis still have a chance to shape this very important document.”

“It’s now my hope that ... Sunni and Shiia and Kurds and other groups will work now to improve the constitution, but also to really now go to the elections and exercise again the democratic franchise for the election of the people whose responsibility it will be to be the first free and permanent government of a free Iraq,” Rice said.



Photo by Tammy Moehlman

Celebrating heritage

A Hispanic Heritage Celebration was held Oct. 20 at Youth and Children Services. Children danced and learned about Hispanic culture, music and food. After dancing, the youth joined their peers to watch guest singer, Melina Johnson, perform a few songs in Spanish.

Idol

From page 1

The event was emceed by Leeann Tweeden, host of NASCAR Nation and correspondent for the Best Damn Sports Show Period on Fox Sports Network, and hosted by Marine Corps Cpl. Brian Buckwalter, anchor for the Pentagon Channel.

Henry stirred the audience with his own rendition of “Back at One,” originally sung by Brian McKnight and Mark Wills, country recording artist and the celebrity guest judge for the finals Saturday.

Togbeola sang “Stand by Me,” Carden lent his voice to “Let’s Stay Together,” Glenn roused the audience with “(Sittin’ on the) dock of the bay,” and Sianoya brought his version of Elton John’s “Something about the way you look tonight.”

Peterson was booed as he criticized the performances, but explained that he was there to help the Idol contestants grow their talent. Wills turned to Togbeola after the performance and said, “You entertained the hell out of me.”

Voting for the finals was held through Army Knowledge Online for two hours and was open to AKO account holders.

The process of bringing Military Idol to life was credited to several individuals including Victor Hurtado, artistic director for U.S. Army Entertainment Division and co-creator of Military Idol.

“I worked with American Idol before, doing consulting,” said Hurtado. “We actually had a relationship with the (American Idol) production team and with Debra Byrd and Randy Jackson as well.”

Being able to use the “Idol” name became a great asset to bringing the pilot program to life.

“We do have a licensing agreement to use the ‘Idol’ name,” said Doriann Fengler, business consultant for Community and Family Support Center. “We are the only entity, other than a country, that has the right to do that.”

Alexander Hall was transformed into a television studio.

“Twenty years ago, I was sitting in that seat as an AIT student listening to briefings and now I’m in here working on a program which is a whole different program,” added Hurtado. “You breathe life into a building out of context and you change it completely.”

Being a new program, Military Idol set a new standard for Army entertainment.

“I think the Military Idol is great,” said Tilley. “What was nice about this (is) it allows the military to showcase all the talent that they have...they have a lot of talent. I had a wonderful time and I hope they invite me to come back next year.”

“It’s been incredible the response and excitement that people have for this,” said Fengler. “We certainly never expected it to get this big. This is phenomenal.”

“It’s been a huge success,” added Hurtado. “The sky’s the limit after this.”

The winner was announced during a special 30-minute show Sunday.

(For Sunday’s story and more photos, see page 20.)

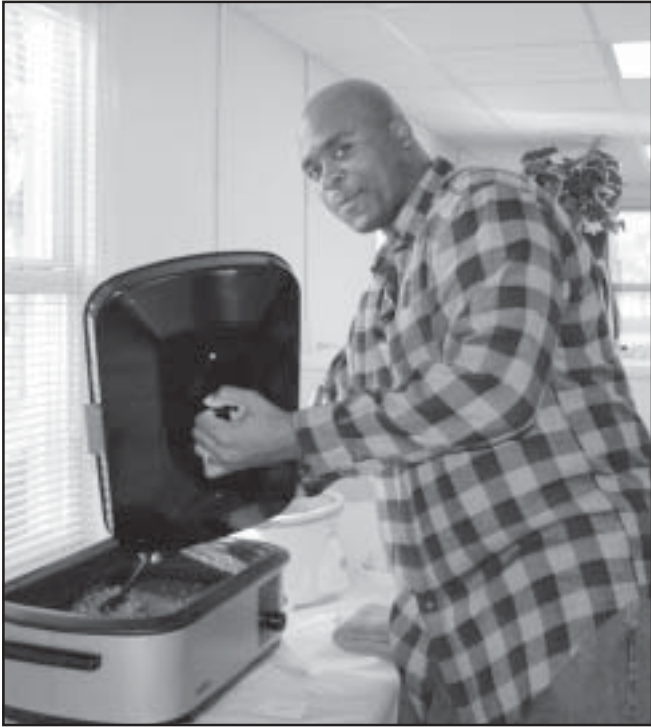


Photo by 2nd Lt. Artemis Meghdadi

Chili cook-off

The 202nd Military Intelligence Battalion family readiness group held a chili cook-off Oct. 21 at the Family Outreach Center. There were also games and craft activities for the children.

The battalion’s four company first sergeants served as the official judges. They judged each of the 21 pots of chili based on smell, look and taste. In the end, Chief Warrant Officer James Sherrell’s (pictured) “Traditional Kick” chili received the distinction of the best over-all chili and won first place.

Soldiers, civilians recognized

Linda Means
Special to the Signal

The Fort Gordon quarterly awards ceremony was held Thursday in Conrad Hall.

The Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter is Staff Sgt. Samuel Fairbank, who is a drill sergeant for Company B, 447th Signal Battalion.

A native of Federalsburg, Md., Fairbank joined the Army to serve and defend his country. He has been in the military for nine years, spending time at Fort Bragg, Korea, Fort Hood and Fort Bliss.

He is currently in charge of 140 Soldiers who manage to keep him very busy; however, he finds being a drill sergeant very rewarding, helping to train and shape the careers of newly assigned advanced individual training students. He feels his greatest accomplishment was being a platoon sergeant during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

He would like to eventually go to Officer Candidate School, and after retirement from the Army, he dreams of becoming a lawyer.

He was married last week to wife Jodie. He has two sons Joshua and Dylan. In his spare time, he enjoys playing basketball and baseball.



Staff Sgt. Michael January, Company A, 369th Signal Battalion, is the Instructor of the Quarter for the fourth quarter.

A native of Homosassa, Fla., he joined the Army more than 17 years ago to carry on a family tradition and to serve his country. During this time, he has had tours of duty at Forts Bragg and Riley, Korea, and Rome, Ga.

His deployments include Operations Just Cause (Panama), Restore Hope (Somalia), Hawkeye (St. Croix), Desert Shield/Storm and Iraqi Freedom. He currently instructs students in the Tactical Single Channel Radio Operators Course on a variety of subjects including tactical high frequency radio systems, tactical satellite communications systems and basic radio operator instruction.

He writes and reviews lesson plans and maintains course material to stay current with new technologies and methods on the battlefield. His ultimate goal is to increase the use of new technologies in the 25C Course and develop the best tactical radio telephone operators possible.

Spending time with his wife Sherri is his number one hobby, followed by participating in shooting competitions, hiking and scuba diving.



The Cook of the Quarter is Spc. Dianna Royal, who is assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 202nd Military Intelligence Battalion, as a food service specialist.

She has served in the Army for five years with duty stations at Fort Lewis, Wash., and Fort Gordon, and is currently deployed the second time to Iraq.

At Fort Lewis, she won the Cook of the Quarter award and met then Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley, for the role she played in winning the Phillip A. Connelly Dining Facility Award.

During her first deployment to Iraq, she won the Servicemember of the Month award with the 3rd Brigade Stryker Combat Team. While on the job at Fort Gordon, this Jacksonville native cooks breakfast, lunch and dinner for as many as 500 servicemembers, ensuring the food that is served is nutritious, as well as tasty and eye appealing.

Royal's future plans are to become a warrant officer, and once she retires from the Army, she would like to pursue a second career in law enforcement. She is an avid reader and decorator.



The Servicemember of the Quarter for the fourth quarter is Spc. Joey Przyzycki, who is assigned to Company D, Task Force Lightening, 513th Military Intelligence Brigade, as an Arabic linguist.

Her duties as a linguist encompass signal collection, translation and interpretation, as part of the ongoing global war on terror.

Przyzycki joined the Army in October 2002 for the opportunity to travel and to learn a foreign language. Since that time, she has completed the Basic Arabic Language Training Course at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, Calif., graduating with honors and receiving the Faculty Book Award, and completed advanced individual training at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas.

Prior to joining the military, she received a bachelor's degree in history from Barnard College/Columbia University in New York City.

She looks forward to being promoted to sergeant and making the most of her time in the Army. Her future plans include furthering her career in the intelligence field and spending time with her husband and their soon to be born daughter.



The Volunteer of the Month for July is Kristine Woodbury, who served as the Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 202nd MI Battalion Family Readiness Group leader from September 2003 to April 2005.

As a young officer's wife with three children, new to the Army and facing her first deployment, she assumed this position with enthusiasm and devotion. She personally contacted everyone in the unit and maintained that contact during the unit's year-long deployment.

She started a bi-weekly playgroup for the battalion, so spouses had an opportunity to meet and support each other, set-up monthly dinners, meetings and socials. She spearheaded an effort to welcome home single Soldiers with a "welcome home bundle" that consisted of bed linens, pillows, towels, an assortment of toiletries and other items, almost single-handedly securing more than \$1,000 in donations.

She also arranged for a local restaurant to provide a hamburger meal to the single Soldiers for lunch upon their re-deployment.

Woodbury is a dedicated wife to Lt. Adam Woodbury, and mother to their children Andrew, Madison and Abigaile, for whom she also volunteers as a Daisy Scout leader and in their schools.



The Volunteer of the Month for August is retired Sgt. Maj. William Myles, a volunteer in the Religious Education Center. A native of Mobile, Ala., he served 30 years in the Army, which included two tours of duty in Viet Nam.

He has been a member of the Bicentennial Chapel worship service since 1980 and has volunteered on the installation for the past 24 years. He initially accepted the call to volunteer at the chapel in part due to the shortage of chaplains' assistants and a need to have someone to answer the telephones and keep the chapel doors open to those in need. He did this, but after a month, he could no longer contain the spirit of the noncommissioned officer in him and went beyond what was requested from him.

He has kept the windows shined, the furniture dusted, the light bulbs replaced, the roses trimmed and the weeds pulled, among a long list of other chores. With his own money, he purchased the supplies and constructed a cover for the chapel's baptismal pool.

Myles and his wife Jeanette and son John are loyal supporters of the chapel and all work together to support the Lord's house. The Myles also have three other sons William and David (both retired Marines), and Bob, a computer systems engineer.



The Volunteer of the Month for September is Sarah Ebey, who has volunteered in various program areas in Army Community Service since October 2003, giving almost 1,200 hours of her free time.

A dedicated volunteer, she works in Army Emergency Relief and Financial Readiness, performing clerical tasks, as well as screening, scheduling and assisting clients with all their needs.

She also works with the Relocation and Lending Closet preparing welcome and relocation packets to servicemembers and their families arriving or leaving Fort Gordon.

Her administrative expertise and organizational skills were used in preparing for the 2005 Army Family Action Plan Conference, for which she played an essential role in its success.

She also keeps the Army Volunteer Corps database updated and maintains information for statistical reports.

Besides being a hardworking volunteer, Ebey is a dedicated wife to her husband Shawn, who is currently deployed with the 86th Combat Support Hospital.

The Ebey's have a 3-year-old daughter Ashlyn and are expecting their second child between Christmas and New Years.



The Civilian of the Quarter is Philip Sines, a supervisory force integration specialist assigned to the Office Chief of Signal. He supervises the Officer Division and is responsible for the strategic human resources planning for the Signal Regiment's officer career fields and warrant officer military occupational specialties, which encompasses more than 5,000 Active and Reserve Component officers worldwide.

He leads the development and implementation of officer personnel life-cycle management policies including structure, acquisition, development, distribution, and sustainment for the Signal Regiment, among his many responsibilities.

Sines draws on his eight years of active duty military and 23 years of civilian service experience to ensure his job is accomplished. He is most proud of the Signal Center's team effort at keeping the Regiment's officer career field programs among the best in the Army.

For relaxation, he coaches youth soccer and is president of the Columbia County Patriots Select Soccer Program. He is also a staff member of the Augusta Fireball soccer team and has been a member of the Signal Corps Regimental Association since 1978.

He and his wife Colleen have two sons, Taylor and Parker, and one daughter Kymberlee.

Sports & Leisure

Sports UPDATE

Run for the woods

The 13th annual Run for the Woods is **Nov. 5** in Hitchcock Woods, Aiken, S.C.

Proceeds benefit the Hitchcock Foundation which manages the woods, the largest urban forest in the country.

Start time is 8:30 a.m. for the 1.2 mile fun run; 9:15 a.m. for the 5.4 mile run.

For information, call (803) 642-5021 (evenings), or e-mail woodsrun05@bellsouth.net

Waltrip speaks

NASCAR legend Darrell Waltrip speaks at 7 p.m. **Tuesday** at the Warren Baptist Church.

Tickets are \$25 and are available at local State Farm offices; proceeds benefit the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. For information, call 868-6000.

Golf tournament

The Christmas House benefit golf tournament has been rescheduled for **Nov. 18** at Gordon Lakes. Cost is \$45 and includes lunch.

Lunch begins at 11 a.m.; shotgun start at noon. All proceeds will be donated to the Fort Gordon Christmas House. For information, call Ashley Goodrum at 791-9322.

Swim lessons

Winter swim lessons begin **Nov. 5** at the indoor pool, and are held Saturday mornings.

Cost is \$25 for four lessons, \$15 for two lessons, active duty servicemembers are free. Register at the pool, or call 791-3034 for information.

Ordnance Corps run

The 2005 Ordnance Corps 5K Run starts at 9 a.m. **Nov. 5** at Fisher Hall on Rice Road.

Cost is \$12 before Sunday; \$15 afterwards. Proceeds benefit Christmas House. For information, call Staff Sgt. Tomika Robinson at 791-4004.

Cyclocross race

Cyclocross, a unique European cycling discipline likened to a steeplechase on bicycles, will make its Augusta debut at 10 a.m. **Nov. 6** at the Augusta State University sports complex on Wrightsboro Road.

The race is the fourth in the statewide Maxxis Georgia Cross series. For information, call 726-3992.

Big Buck contest

Outdoor Recreation's Big Buck Contest runs through January 2006 during the hunting season.

Hunters with a Fort Gordon hunting license can register both bucks for the year by entering once.

Cost is \$10 for FGSC members and \$20 for non-members.

First place wins a \$300 gift certificate and a free mount.

Registration will be at the Tactical Advantage Sportsman Complex, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday to Friday and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday. For information call 791-5078/3317.

Schumacher sweeps weekend races, wins NHRA title

Chris DiRato

Army News Service

LAS VEGAS, Nev. – U.S. Army Top Fuel driver, Tony “The Sarge” Schumacher, pocketed his second straight NHRA POWERade Top Fuel world championship Oct. 21, captured the prestigious Bud Shootout Oct. 22 and won the ACDelco Nationals Oct. 23 at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

Schumacher won the ACDelco, driving the strip in 4.86 seconds at 327.19 mph to beat the final-round opponent Sunday.

This makes it Schumacher’s eighth victory this season and his 29th career victory, tying the NHRA record with four victories in a row.

It was the second straight year he won the POWERade

points championship and third championship in his career.

Schumacher only needed to make one qualifying attempt to take his third career world title, but instead jetted to the top spot entering Saturday’s final two qualifying sessions and the \$100,000 Budweiser Shootout. Schumacher laid down a 4.516-second pass at 325.53 mph to officially take the title.

Schumacher, who had come up empty-handed in six previous tries in the Bud Shootout, won a close final round race over Scott Kalitta to pocket the \$100,000 winner’s check.

“Wow – that’s about all I can say,” said the Chicago native who plowed through David Grubnic and Doug Kalitta before eliminating Scott Kalitta. “This has been an incredible

weekend. We clinched the world title and now have finally won a Bud Shootout. Hopefully, we can keep it up come tomorrow.”

In Pro Stock Motorcycles, U.S. Army drivers Angelle Sampey and Antron Brown settled into the fifth-and ninth-place starting positions the next race.

Schumacher, pocketed his second straight NHRA POWERade Top Fuel world championship Friday and took the provisional pole position during the first day of action for the ACDelco Nationals at The Strip at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

Schumacher only needed to make one qualifying attempt to take his third career world title, but instead jetted to the top spot entering Saturday’s final two qualifying sessions and the

\$100,000 Budweiser Shootout.

While Schumacher enjoyed the championship spotlight, his U.S. Army Pro Stock Motorcycle teammates, Angelle Sampey and Antron Brown, were taking care of their own business by nailing the third- and 10th- place

“I knew the championship was all but wrapped up, but I didn’t want to smoke the tires on that clinching run,” said the Chicago native with a chuckle. “I’m relieved it’s over. We all worked so hard for this.

Now, we can celebrate, but not too much, because the Bud Shootout is tomorrow.”

As top seed in the special race, Schumacher will take on David Grubnic, who was the eighth-place, wild card selection.

“It would be nice to take home all of that Bud money in

addition to the world championship hardware,” he added.

Sampey, who won the Pro Stock Motorcycle race at Reading, Pa., last month, recorded a 7.265-second run at 182.50 mph to slide into the top three.

“We had a couple of good runs today,” said the Louisiana native. “I’m really looking forward to race day. This U.S. Army program is motoring right now.”

Brown, with a 7.302-second trip at 179.40 mph, could not quite break into the upper half of the field to join his teammate.

“We’ll give it another shot on Saturday,” he offered. “We’ve got plenty left in my U.S. Army Suzuki. We’ll get it done.”

(DiRato works with the NHRA Racing with the Army.)



Photo by Pat Buchholz

Host of NASCAR Nation visits injured Soldiers at EAMC

Leeann Tweeden, host of NASCAR Nation and correspondent for the “Best Damn Sports Show Period” on Fox Sports, visited injured Soldiers at Eisenhower Army Medical Center Saturday. The two brothers, Sgt. Sam Vanloon and Spc. David Vanloon, were both injured in Iraq one week apart and are being treated at EAMC. The Vanloons are big fans of Tweeden and NASCAR. Tweeden, who was also emceeding Military Idol contest here, invited the brothers to attend the final show and after talking with their doctor they were released for the day.

Airman makes ‘noise’

Alicia Helton

Air Force Print News

MINOT AIR FORCE BASE, N.D.

– Every hunter knows the importance of having good equipment – a trusted rifle, the right piece of accessory equipment and that perfect ammunition load. But the key is being able to lure your prey to the perfect spot.

To one Airman here, it is not enough to lure his prey, but to be the best at it.

Airman 1st Class Dustin Easton, of the 5th Civil Engineer Squadron’s explosive ordnance disposal flight, is a champion bird caller. He has competed in various bird calling competitions nationwide including goose calls and turkey calls. Most recently he competed in the Mid-West Water Festival in Fargo, N.D., where he placed fourth in the goose call.

According to the bird calling champion, who finds most of his contests on the Internet, a caller has to follow a routine. This routine is usually 90 seconds long, and the contestant’s goal is to make the judges believe they are calling a flock of birds. “It all depends on the birds and how they react to the calls. Usually we start with a hail, which is a couple of long high-pitched calls, and then we go into the greeting call followed by a few clucks,” Easton said. “The idea is to get the birds excited by clucking faster and faster, but as the birds get closer, the clucks become softer and slower and eventually turn into moans. We finally do a feeding call and call the birds closer to the ground.”



Photo by Senior Airman Danny Monahan

Airman 1st Class Dustin Easton demonstrates how he uses a hand-made birdcall here during a practice session recently.

Not only are there different kinds of calls, but all different ways to call for birds, he said. The most common are using a bird call or just by using your hands. Some bird calls are hand-made, but most are purchased. Easton calls for turkeys by mouth, but uses bird calls for ducks and geese. He also calls deer and squirrels.

“(Bird calling) takes a lot of practice,” he said. “You have to know the difference in the calls and the difference in the birds.

The southern Illinois native has been bird calling since he was 10 years old. He went with his grandfather hunting to watch him call for birds.

“One of the reasons I started bird calling is because of my grandfather, and he’s a (bird calling) legend back at home,” he said. “I was always a half a

step behind learning from him by watching his hand positions and how he (makes) the right sound.”

Another reason the bird caller began his trade is for the love of wild game.

“The main reason I began bird calling is to hunt and get

food on the table,” he said. “My strict rule is, if I kill it, I eat it.”

The Airman takes his hunting seriously and loves watching the birds and tricking them but credits his success to his grandfather.

“If it hadn’t been for (my grandfather) I would not have had the luck that I’ve had,” he said. “He took a kid, had patience with him and stuck with him even when he was in the way and making noises.”

Flag football standings

As of Oct. 25

Teams	W	L	Teams	W	L
Blue Division					
31st Intel Squadron	12	4	Co. C, 73rd Ord. Bn.	10	5
Co. A, 67th Sig. Bn.	9	7	Co. D, 551st Sig. Bn.	2	11
Navy IOC	14	3	Co. B, 551st Sig. Bn.	10	3
252nd Sig. Co.	9	9	Marines Det.	5	10
EAMC	8	8	Task Force 201st	2	13
RNCOA	5	13			
Co. A, 551st Sig. Bn.	11	5	Morning Division		
Co. B, 67th Sig. Bn.	1	19	Co. C, 73rd Ord. Bn.	4	2
HHC, 93rd Sig. Bde.	3	14	Co. D, 551st Sig. Bn.	3	3
Co. A, 447th Sig. Bn.	12	4	Co. B, 551st Sig. Bn.	2	4
Co. B, 442nd Sig. Bn.	7	5			
White Division					
206th Mil. Int.	13	1	31st Intel Squadron	7	3
DENTAC	12	3	Co. B, 551st Sig Bn.	7	2
Co. A, 73rd Ord. Bn.	10	4	EAMC	3	7
35th MP Det.	4	9	Navy IOC	7	3
Co. B, 73rd Ord. Bn.	2	11	Co. C, 73rd Ord. Bn.	3	7
			Co. D, 551st Sig. Bn.	2	8



B-551 takes morning division

Friday on Field One, Company B, 551st Signal Battalion, played Co. C, 73rd Ordnance Battalion, in the final game of the Morning Division Flag Football Championships (below). At halftime Co. B led 24-0 and won the game 41-17 for first place in the championships, while Co. C took second place and Co. D, 551st Signal Battalion, placed third. Pvt. Scotty Brennan caught a pass for a touchdown in the second half for Co. B (above).



Photos by Tammy Moehlman

EOD Soldiers, Airmen destroy old rockets

Staff Sgt. Marcus McDonald
Air Force Print News

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan – Airmen and Soldiers joined forces at a former Soviet munitions dump near here to transport and destroy three 5,000-pound rockets.

If not destroyed, the rockets could have posed a threat to U.S. and coalition forces serving here as part of the ongoing global war on terrorism, officials said.

Lessons learned from the joint operation will help validate explosive ordnance disposal procedures and improve information available to EOD technicians throughout the Department of Defense.

“After more than two months of planning, we teamed up with the Army EOD, vehicle maintenance and ammo Soldiers to transport the three rockets from a former Soviet ammunition supply point to a secure site where they were later destroyed,” said Tech. Sgt. Dustin Prowell.

Prowell is the noncommissioned officer in charge of the

455th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight here. He and the rest of his Air Force EOD team deployed here from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.

“Each of the rockets contained more than 2,000 pounds of propellant, which could have proved deadly to our forces if they found their way into the wrong hands,” said Prowell. “Our job Oct. 15 was to eliminate that threat.”

Sgt. William Berry, from the 23rd Ordnance Company at Miesau, Germany, said his team’s interaction with Airmen has always proven beneficial.

“We regularly work alongside our Air Force counterparts to help get whatever job needs to be done – in a timely manner,” said Berry. “The best part of our interaction is that we can, in support of the ongoing war effort, move and dispose of ammunition whenever called upon.”

Senior Airman Sabrina Baker, an EOD equipment troop, said she is enjoying her work here.



Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Marcus McDonald

Sgt. Thomas Kio guides the loading of one of three 5,000-pound rockets onto a truck. Germany-based Soldiers joined members of the 455th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight in transporting the rockets from an old Soviet ammunition supply dump to a secure site for destruction.

“One of the best parts of our job is that it is out of the ordinary,” Baker said. “Everyone contributes their piece of the overall puzzle – but our job is

unique.

“Not many people can say they defuse bombs and blow things up for a living,” she said.

The Airman said it is reward-

ing knowing her job directly impacts U.S. and coalition forces as well as the local community.

“By going out and clearing

these hazards, we are helping prevent accidents and improving the area and overall well-being of the people of Afghanistan,” she said.

Marine ‘tracks’ backbone for summer ops

Cpl. Ruben D. Maestre
Marine Corps News

AL AMARIYAH, Iraq – Marines and Iraqi soldiers moved through the town of Al Amariyah and the settlement known as Ferris Town during the early morning hours of Aug. 25 and 26. They conducted house-to-house searches throughout both communities uncovering illegal weapons and confiscating insurgent propaganda documents and videos in some of the dwellings they searched.

The military action was part of Operation Southern Fire, a mission kicked off last summer by coalition forces with the intent of establishing a permanent presence and laying the foundations for Iraqi police and army units to operate in an area more than 12 miles south of the city of Fallujah. The troops, conducting operations in an urban environment consisting of flats, store fronts and multi-storied apartment buildings, faced the challenges of operating in a treacherous urban terrain.

Supporting these infantrymen, were the Marines of 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 2nd Marine Division. Using their ‘tracks,’ a nickname given to their assault amphibian vehicles, their operators blocked off intersections, roadways and entrances into the communities where service members on the ground conducted their searches.

“We’re ensuring that no vehicles and personnel come in or out of the cordon block,” said Cpl. Stephen G. Patton, of Jamestown, Tenn., and an AAV crewman with 2nd AA Bn., as he finished his watch behind a heavy machine gun

and grenade launcher inside his AAV. “If they come towards the town, we send them away.”

The challenges poised in this operation and in other missions to the track battalion are not new to the unit. Amphibious assault crewmen and their vehicles have been used to patrol roadways, provide security at check points and in search of weapon caches.

With its assets, the battalion was able to provide increased security, greater mobility and more firepower to coalition forces conducting combat missions.

“We have participated in dismounted roles; conducting cordon and knocks, entry control points and (main supply route) security,” said 1st Lt. Kyle J. Andrews, of Lexington, Ohio, and platoon commander with the battalion. “Pretty much any mission that comes down from higher we can accomplish.”

The trackers used their vehicles to carry water and military rations during the operation adding relief to patrolling Marines by carrying additional gear for them.

The level of security provided by the trackers stands out through increased area coverage and firepower. This was seen as a reassuring comfort for troops on house-to-house searches.

“The AAVs out there are greatly appreciated,” said Gunnery Sgt. Oscar Gutierrez, of San Antonio, and training chief whose unit, Echo Company, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, participated in the cordon and knock sweeps. “Seeing them out there providing security, all the hard work, [intelligence information] they have been giving us will make us more successful.”



Photo by Marine Cpl. Ruben Maestre

Cpl. Stephen G. Patton, of Jamestown, Tenn., and an assault amphibian vehicle crewman assigned with Bravo Company, 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, mans a heavy machine gun and grenade launcher from his vehicle during Operation Southern Fire last summer. Using their ‘tracks,’ a nickname given to their AAVs, their operators provided additional security, mobility and firepower during summer operations as troops on the ground conducted their missions.



An Assault Amphibian Vehicle and its crew from Bravo Company, 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, use their armored vehicles to block a roadway during Operation Southern Fire last summer.

Revolutionary War cavalry general honored

Catherine Caruso
Special to the Signal

The Army community paid respects to one of its first freedom fighters recently, 226 years after his death.

Casmir Pulaski, widely known as “Father of the American Cavalry,” received a state funeral, with full military honors, Oct. 9.

The revolutionary war general’s casket lay in state at seven Savannah, Ga., places of worship before it was interred in an interfaith service beneath the monument erected in his honor, in Savannah’s Monterey Square. Soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division accompanied the procession, and marked the interment with a 21-gun salute, while Soldiers from Fort Gordon supported the observance with martial music and Taps.

Members of the Polish and American military communities then paid their respects at the flag-draped casket, adding handfuls of earth to the grave.

If you don’t know Pulaski’s story, chances are good you recognize his name.

It is memorialized in Polish communities across the country, on streets, bridges and monuments.

Pulaski commanded cavalry forces in his native country, then traveled to America to sup-

port the Continental Army during the revolutionary war.

The nobleman first followed his father into opposition of Russian military and political influence over Poland.

The fight cost his family their fortune before landing young Count Pulaski in trouble with authorities for his role in a plot to kidnap the king. Accused of attempted regicide, he was eventually sentenced to death in his home country.

Pulaski sought refuge in Western Europe, then fought the Russians again, serving with the Turkish military, before traveling to America to offer his services in support of the war for independence there.

“He wasn’t just an adventure seeker. He was an idealist, who identified with their struggle and happened to find a way to support his beliefs in military service,” Francis Hayes, chairman of the Pulaski Jubilee committee, said.

The young officer, recommended by George Washington, was appointed general of the cavalry by the Continental Congress.

After training the four regiments in battle-tested European cavalry techniques, he resigned his position to form the Polish legion, a mixed-unit of infantrymen and cavalrymen designed to execute more independent ac-

tions on the battlefield.

After helping defend the city of Charleston from British forces, Pulaski and his Soldiers proceeded to Savannah in an attempt to repeat the success of the fight in South Carolina.

Wounded during the initial assault on Oct. 9, 1779, he died two days later, aboard the S.S. Wasp, of his injuries.

He was 32 years old.

Witnesses reported Pulaski was buried at sea, possibly to prevent his body from falling into Loyalist hands.

But in a biography written about the general, Dr. Antoni Lenkiewicz questioned that story, saying burial at sea would be an unusual way to send off the body of a war hero aboard a ship that was never out of sight of land.

A researcher named Edward Pinkowski picked up the trail, locating a letter from the captain of the Wasp which stated the ship stopped on Thunderbolt bluff so the body of an American officer who died aboard ship could be buried.

A body alleged to be Pulaski’s was placed in a vault beneath the Pulaski Monument in Savannah in 1852.

In the intervening years, Pulaski’s name, memorialized throughout the United States in almost every community that ever boasted a significant Pol-



Photos by Catherine Caruso

The remains of Casmir Pulaski were interred Oct. 9 in Savannah, beneath a monument erected in his honor.

ish-American population, had faded from prominence.

The cavalry was once an elite military force, dominated by nobles and landowners.

U.S. cavalry Soldiers remained a highly visible part of the Army – in parades, at ceremonies, and even in competition at the Olympic Games, until their usefulness in battle was undermined by the advent of automatic weapons and mechanized warfare.

With that went some of

Pulaski’s name recognition.

In 1996, the vault was opened, and the contents removed for analysis. Researchers hoped to learn if the body was that of the Polish count and American general.

The results were inconclusive, because there was no DNA left to study.

The burial returned the remains to their place below the monument, but those involved in organizing the state funeral say it’s irrelevant.

Francis Hayes, chairman of the Pulaski Jubilee committee, said he is honored to be a part of ensuring this Revolutionary war hero receives the honors he deserved when he was buried, either at sea or on Greenwich Plantation, in 1779.

Pulaski’s legacy may be even more relevant today than ever, Hayes said.

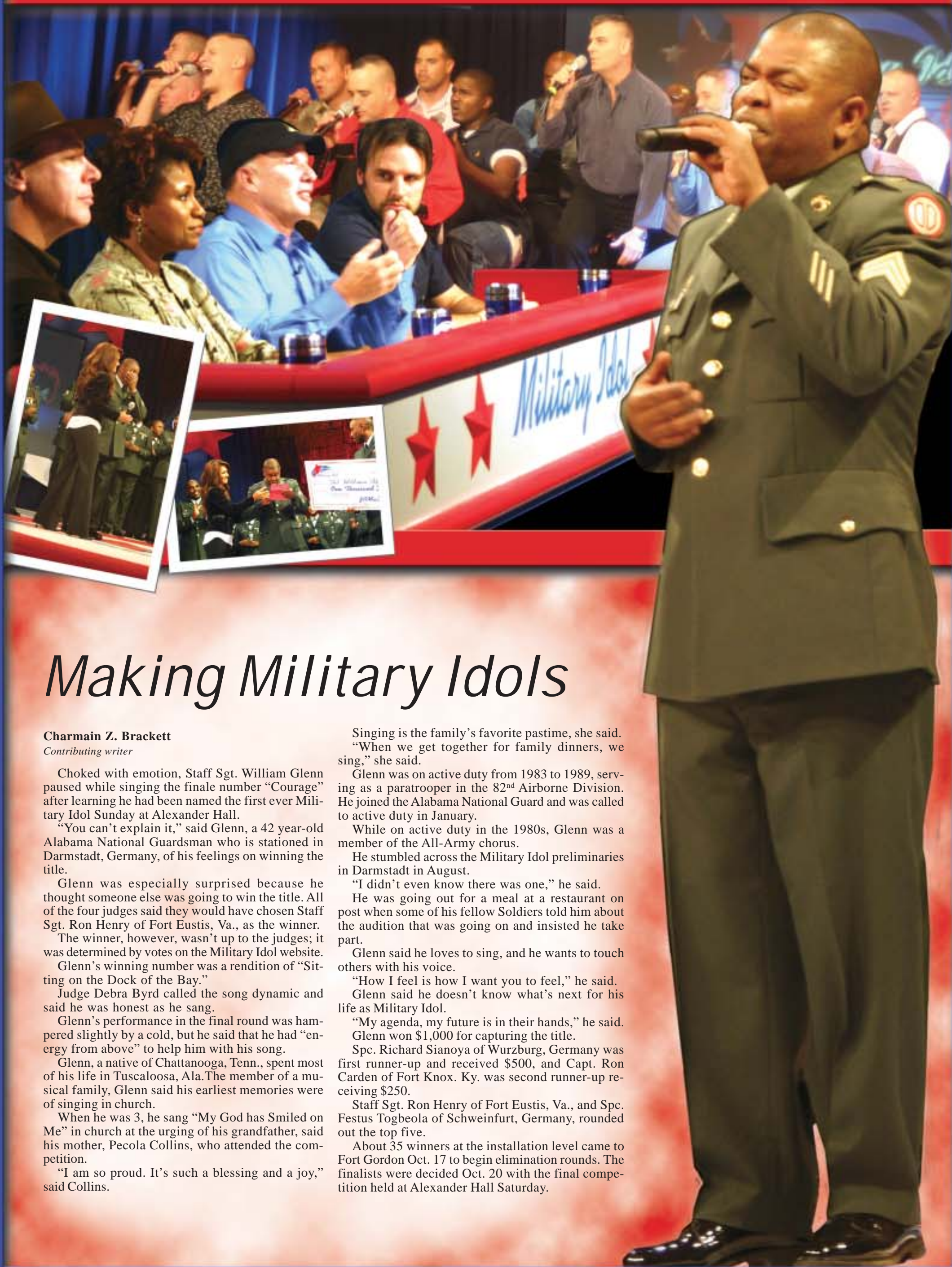
“He was a patriot, who fought oppression wherever he found it... it’s time to give him the honor he deserved.”



The Signal Corps Band played at the ceremony.



Spectrum



Making Military Idols

Charmain Z. Brackett
Contributing writer

Choked with emotion, Staff Sgt. William Glenn paused while singing the finale number "Courage" after learning he had been named the first ever Military Idol Sunday at Alexander Hall.

"You can't explain it," said Glenn, a 42 year-old Alabama National Guardsman who is stationed in Darmstadt, Germany, of his feelings on winning the title.

Glenn was especially surprised because he thought someone else was going to win the title. All of the four judges said they would have chosen Staff Sgt. Ron Henry of Fort Eustis, Va., as the winner.

The winner, however, wasn't up to the judges; it was determined by votes on the Military Idol website.

Glenn's winning number was a rendition of "Sitting on the Dock of the Bay."

Judge Debra Byrd called the song dynamic and said he was honest as he sang.

Glenn's performance in the final round was hampered slightly by a cold, but he said that he had "energy from above" to help him with his song.

Glenn, a native of Chattanooga, Tenn., spent most of his life in Tuscaloosa, Ala. The member of a musical family, Glenn said his earliest memories were of singing in church.

When he was 3, he sang "My God has Smiled on Me" in church at the urging of his grandfather, said his mother, Pecola Collins, who attended the competition.

"I am so proud. It's such a blessing and a joy," said Collins.

Singing is the family's favorite pastime, she said. "When we get together for family dinners, we sing," she said.

Glenn was on active duty from 1983 to 1989, serving as a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division. He joined the Alabama National Guard and was called to active duty in January.

While on active duty in the 1980s, Glenn was a member of the All-Army chorus.

He stumbled across the Military Idol preliminaries in Darmstadt in August.

"I didn't even know there was one," he said.

He was going out for a meal at a restaurant on post when some of his fellow Soldiers told him about the audition that was going on and insisted he take part.

Glenn said he loves to sing, and he wants to touch others with his voice.

"How I feel is how I want you to feel," he said.

Glenn said he doesn't know what's next for his life as Military Idol.

"My agenda, my future is in their hands," he said. Glenn won \$1,000 for capturing the title.

Spc. Richard Sianoya of Wurzburg, Germany was first runner-up and received \$500, and Capt. Ron Carden of Fort Knox, Ky. was second runner-up receiving \$250.

Staff Sgt. Ron Henry of Fort Eustis, Va., and Spc. Festus Togbeola of Schweinfurt, Germany, rounded out the top five.

About 35 winners at the installation level came to Fort Gordon Oct. 17 to begin elimination rounds. The finalists were decided Oct. 20 with the final competition held at Alexander Hall Saturday.